

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JOHANN 02251 251411Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 USIA-06 L-03
/061 W

-----052263 251417Z /45

P 251025Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6610
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 2251

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINR, SF
SUBJECT: LEONARD "SKAKES" SIKHIKHANE VISIT TO CANADA

REF: OTTAWA 2637; JOHANNESBURG 2192; STATE 197987

1. SUMMARY: SIKHIKHANE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH AFL-CIO AND/OR AALC REPRESENTATIVES. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING INTER UNION COOPERATION, HE MAY MENTION THE RESERVATIONS WHICH MANY BLACK TRADE UNION LEADERS HAVE CONCERNING THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LABOR LEGISLATION AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A BLACK TRADE UNION FEDERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SIKHIKHANE IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART JOHANNESBURG AUGUST 24. THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER HAS INFORMED HIM OF A POSSIBLE AFL-CIO INVITATION, WHICH HE WOULD WELCOME. AFL-CIO AND/OR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MAY WISH TO EXPLORE WITH SIKHIKHANE WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE IS CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED OVER THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR BLACK TRADE UNIONS OF THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LABOR LEGISLATION AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JOHANN 02251 251411Z

THE PROPOSED FORMATION OF A BLACK TRADE UNION FEDERATION
(JOHANNESBURG 676).

3. DURING A MEETING WITH SIKHIKHANE ON AUGUST 19, WIEHAHN IS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE DISINTEREST OF MANY BLACK TRADE UNIONS IN SUBMITTING EVIDENCE TO HIS COMMISSION. WIEHAHN IS REPORTED TO HAVE THREATENED TO SUBPOENA EVIDENCE FROM

THE BLACK TRADE UNIONS IF THEY FAIL TO COME FORWARD VOLUNTARILY. SIKHIKHANE SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT WIEHAHN MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE URBAN TRAINING PROJECT UNIONS IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITION AND PERHAPS ENCOURAGE COOPERATION. ACCORDING TO SIKHIKHANE, MANY BLACK TRADE UNION LEADERS HAVE BEEN DISILLUSIONED BY THE FAILURE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THERON COMMISSION ON COLORED AFFAIRS. HIS ATTITUDE IS A REFLECTION OF THE BROADER BLACK COMMUNITY MALAISE OVER GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES AND POLICIES AFFECTING BLACKS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR.

4. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH IS LOOKING INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF FORMING A BLACK TRADE UNION FEDERATION IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 10 FOLLOWING SIKHIKHANE'S RETURN TO JOHANNESBURG. HE AND JANE HLONGWANE OF THE ENGINEERING AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION HAVE BEEN TWO OF THE MOST VIGOROUS SKEPTICS OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A BLACK FEDERATION AT THIS TIME. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT JURISDICTIONAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOME OF THE BLACK UNIONS MUST FIRST BE ELIMINATED AND PREOCCUPIED ABOUT THE EFFECT THE FORMATION OF A FEDERATION WOULD HAVE ON OUTSIDE SOURCES OF SUPPORT. THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A BLACK FEDERATION IS PRIMARILY SPONSORED BY COLORED TRADE UNION LEADER FREDDY SAULS (NATIONAL MOTOR ASSEMBLY UNION) WHO IS BASED IN PORT ELIZABETH. IT HAS QUALIFIED SUPPORT FROM THE DURBAN-BASED BLACK UNIONS AND IS ACTIVELY OPPOSED BY THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (INCLUDING VICE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JOHANN 02251 251411Z

PRESIDENT LUCY MVUBELO). EXTERNAL ENCOURAGEMENT IS BEING PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL METAL WORKERS FEDERATION. JOHNSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN02251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770307-0589
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770825/aaaaaufn.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 646b7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OTTAWA 2637, 77 JOHANNESBURG 2192, 77 STATE 197987
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1489663
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEONARD ("SKAKES") SIKHIKHANE VISIT TO CANADA
TAGS: ELAB, PINR, SF, (SIKHAKHANE, SKAKES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/646b7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009